

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-10 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 AID-05 CU-04 /121 W
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R 250456Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 2803

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ELAB, VS, TW, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PGNU CABINET MEETING - APRIL 23, 1975

1. CABINET SPOKESMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG TOLD THE PRESS ON APRIL 24 THAT THE PREVIOUS DAY'S PGNU CABINET MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN HELD IN VIENTIANE, HAD LASTED FIVE AND A HALF HOURS. THE TWO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS PRESIDED.

2. ROYAL TRIP: THE FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS THE KING AND QUEEN'S VISIT TO SAM NEUA. IT WILL TAKE PLACE FROM APRIL 28 TO MAY 4. THEIR MAJESTIES WILL BE ACCOMPANIED INTER ALIA BY THE TWO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS; MINISTER OF INTERIOR PHENG PHONSAVAN (VIENTIANE SIDE) AND MINISTER OF RELIGION MAHA KOU SOUVANNAMETHI (LPF). THE PATHET LAO HAD DECLINED TO ALLOW REPORTERS TO ACCOMPANY THE ROYAL PROGRESS, CITING SPACE LIMITATION IN THE HELICOPTERS TO
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BE USED IN TAKING THE PARTY FROM LUANG PRABANG TO SAM

NEUA. PL WILL, HOWEVER, PERMIT TWO OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO MAKE THE TRIP, ONE TO ACT AS SPOKESMAN AND THE OTHER AS REPORTER.

3. "PRG": THE CABINET DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO RECOGNIZE THE "PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM" (PRG) BUT THAT THE DECISION AS TO WHEN THIS RECOGNITION WOULD BE EXTENDED WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT THE RETURN OF THE PRIME MINISTER FROM LUANG PRABANG ON APRIL 29. LATER, IN ANSWERING A REPORTER'S QUESTION, OUDAY SAID THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GVN HAD NOT BEEN CUT AND THAT THE CLOSING OF THE LAO EMBASSY AT SAIGON WAS TEMPORARY AND DONE FOR SECURITY REASONS.

4. MILITARY PROBLEMS: THE CABINET DECIDED IN REGARD TO THE RECENT FIGHTING AT NAGNANG-BAN SOUNG AND SALA PHOU KOUN-PHOU SOUNG THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM THE TWO AREAS BY APRIL 26. AT THAT TIME MIXED TEAMS FROM THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE ACCORDS (JCCIA) WOULD VISIT BOTH PLACES TO SEE THAT THIS AGREEMENT WAS BEING CARRIED OUT.

5. TEACHERS' STRIKE: THE CABINET ISSUED AN ORDER THAT THERE BE NO REPRISALS AGAINST PARTICIPANTS IN THE NATION-WIDE TEACHERS' STRIKE WHEN THE STRIKERS RETURN TO WORK. (COMMENT: WHETHER THE STRIKE IS OVER OR NOT IS UNCLEAR. THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT HAS GRANTED THE STRIKERS THEIR DEMANDS BUT THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY HOLIDAYS LATELY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY IF THE TEACHERS HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN TO WORK.)

6. REPUBLIC OF CHINA: THE CABINET ISSUED AN ORDER FORBIDDING ANY PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S FLAG. IT ALSO FORBODE DISPLAY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG KHAISHEK'S PORTRAIT NEXT TO THAT OF THE KING AND THE ISSUING, BY CHINESE SCHOOLS, OF CERTIFICATES BEARING THE ROC FLAG OR CHIANG'S PICTURE.

7. AID TRIP: MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLAN SOTH PHETRASY (LPF) REPORTED ON HIS AID-SEEKING EXPEDITION TO POLAND UNCLASSIFIED

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AND MONGOLIA.

8. DIKES: FINALLY, THE CABINET AUTHORIZED AN EXPENDITURE OF 7 MILLION KIP TO BUILD A DIKE ALONG THE MEKONG FROM BAN HOM TO SITHANE TAY (VIENTIANE PROVINCE). THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE START OF THE RAINY SEASON.
CHAPMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PRESS CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI02803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750145-0573
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750414/aaaaanhz.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAO PGNU CABINET MEETING - APRIL 23, 1975
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ELAB, VS, TW, LA, PRG, (OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006